(b) Ministry of External Affairs as the administrative Ministry is competent to fill up the posts in Central Passport Organisation in accordance with recruitment rules notified by them.

Agreement on agricultural development

@1499. CHOWDHARY HARI SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that more than 90,000 rural people in Maharashtra are expected to get benefit from the US dollar 29.2 million as per the loan agreement signed between India and International Fund for agricultural Development;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of the agreement;

(c) the areas in that State which is likely to be benefited by this agreement;

(d) whether the creation of self-help scheme aims at helping the people living below the poverty line in rural areas; and

(e) what is the total amount of loan expected to be utilised by those people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAM BHAI B. PATEAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Main terms and conditions of the agreement are:

(i) United Nations Development Programme/Office of the Project Services will be appointed as the Cooperating Institution.

(ii) A service charge @ 1 per cnt per annum on the amount of the loan withdrawn and outstanding from time to time shall be paid to the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

(iii) The principal amount of loan shall be paid in 80 equal semi-annual instalments starting from 1st July, 2003 in U.S. Dollars.

(iv) Closing date of the loan will be 30th September, 2000 or any other later date as notified by International Fund for Agricultural Development.

(v) The proceeds of the loan will be made available to Government of Maharashtra and NABARD for carrying out the project, NABARD shall make the proceeds of the loan available to the participating banks under a refinancing agreement.

(vi) Arrangements will be established for monitoring the progress of the project and ongoing evaluation of the effects of the project.

(vii) Appropriate measures may be taken to achieve the objective of reaching positive interest rates over time.

(viii) The participating banks shall minimise their costs in extending the credit to the borrowers.

(ix) The Project Steering Committee and the District Project-Co-ordinating Committee in the Project Area will be established.

(c) The project will commence in the four districts of Yavatmal, Chandrapur, Nanded and Pune in the first year. After mid-term review/Evaluation, expension of the project area to more districts will be decided.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) A total amount of U.S. Dollars 1,355,200 is proposed to be provided as loans to self-help groups.

Unauthorised occupation of Gram Sabha Land

1500. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the land of Gram Sabha Bathain Kalan Tehsil Chhata, District Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, has been occupied by some persons unauthorisedly;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take for vacation of Gram Sabha land;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said land which is to be allotted to

@Previously Unstarred Question 1543, transferred from 30th July, 1993.